

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7641

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 12393

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MX

SUBJECT: LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. DURING THE COURSE OF THE RETURN TRIP TO MEXICO, LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS IN VERY GOOD SPIRITS, HAVING COME AWAY WITH A FEELING OF MISSION SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED. REFERRING TO ECHEVERRIA ONLY BY INFERENCE, HE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A TRIP WAS TO EASE RELATIONSHIPS, SOLVE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AND NOT TO CREATE NEW PROBLEMS AS OTHERS HAD DONE IN RECENT YEARS.

2. LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS WORKING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AS WELL AS WITH THE FAMILY DINNER PARTY. HE CAME AWAY VERY MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HUMANITY AND WITH HIS GRASP OF BOTH NATIONAL AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD WATCHED THE TELEVISED DEBATES AND SAID CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HE WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD WIN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. HE COULD NOT SAY THIS PUBLICLY AS IT MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AS INTERFERING IN OUR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

3. HE WAS EQUALLY DELIGHTED WITH HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU, THE INSIGHTS YOU GAVE HIM INTO THE AFRICA SITUATION AND THE REASSURING PROSPECT THAT A PROCESS LEADING TOWARD PEACEFUL EVOLUTION HAD AT LEAST BEEN STARTED. HE WAS  
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ALSO HAPPY WITH YOUR REMARKS REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR

BETTER AND "MORE INTIMATE" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE IN TURN WOULD LEAD TO ACCOMMODATION ON THE VARIOUS MEXICAN ASPIRATIONS IN THE MATTER OF "RATIONALIZING OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN A COMPLEMENTARY MANNER", ASSURING MEXICO OF UNINTERRUPTED ACCESS TO U.S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS FOR LABOR-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS, MORE GENEROUS FREE-ENTRY ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN TOURISTS AND MORE PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE VERY COMPLICATED UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS PROBLEM. HE RECOGNIZED THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT HOPED THAT BOTH SIDES COULD SET THE STAGE FOR MOVEMENT AFTER THAT DATE. HE CONSIDERS YOU THE LEADING FIGURE OF OUR ERA AND WAS HAPPY TO HAVE THIS RENEWED CONTACT WITH YOU. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO FURTHER EXCHANGES.

4. LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND WITH THE PRESS, AS WELL AS WITH JEWISH AND CHICANO LEADERS. HE FELT HE HAD MANAGED TO IMPROVE MEXICO'S IMAGE IN ALL OF THESE GROUPS. HE WAS VERY HAPPY WITH HIS CONVERSATION WITH MCNAMARA AND FELT THAT HE HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY BREADTH OF APPROACH. HE THOUGHT IMF DIRECTOR WITTEVEEN HAD BEEN INTERESTED BUT "VERY HARD." HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS NATURAL ROLE FOR IMF IN MEXICO'S PRESENT SITUATION.

5. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE VISIT AND THE HOSPITALITY AFFORDED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN, BOTH AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND AT THE KENNEDY CENTER.

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